



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Two arrested in weekend shooting of 14-year-old in Laurel *Victim pronounced dead at hospital today*

Howard County police have arrested two teens in the shooting death of a 14-year-old in North Laurel Oct. 28, and believe the incident was drug-related.

Luis Gerardo Ordonez, 19, and Francisco J. Rodriguez, 16, both of Laurel, will be charged as adults with murder, assault, reckless endangerment and firearms violations, in the killing of Xavier Cole Young, 14, of Odenton. Both suspects were originally charged with attempted murder, but those charges are expected to be upgraded to murder with the announcement that Young has died as a result of his injuries.

Through investigation, police believe that Young, Ordonez, Rodriguez and a few other teens were involved in coordinating a drug deal in the 9000 block of N. Laurel Road. When the parties met at the agreed upon location around 11 p.m., there was an unknown altercation and one shot was fired from a car window, striking Young. The suspects fled in a black sedan.

Young was flown to Johns Hopkins Hospital with critical injuries. Doctors pronounced him dead this morning.

Through investigation, detectives learned that Ordonez and Rodriguez were involved in the shooting. They were located by police on Harvest View Court in Ellicott City early this morning, Oct. 30, in a black Nissan Altima, which matched the description of the suspect vehicle. Officers found a handgun inside the car.

Ordonez and Rodriguez are both being held at the Howard County Detention Center on no bond.

Police are continuing to investigate the circumstances of the incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 410-313-STOP or HCPDcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov.

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